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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #12.

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11:30 to 12:30 A.M. C. S. T.

March 24, 1932

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers."

(ORCHESTRA: QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER: Ranger Jim Robbins, the veteran forester in charge of the Pine Cone Ranger District, and his new assistant Jerry Quick, are with us again today. All this week, Ranger Jim has been busy attending meetings of livestock men and receiving applications for permits to graze livestock on the Pine Cone District during the coming summer. Stockmen purchase grazing privileges in the National Forests at a small fee per head, and in the early spring the Forest officers have a busy time meeting all the permittees of the year before and receiving their applications. Then there are the newcomers who also want to secure grazing for their stock if room can be found for them on the range. Sometimes there are controversies between applicants which must be adjusted before the permits are issued. These differences are threshed out in conferences with the Forest Ranger, or frequently they are settled in the meetings of the local livestock associations. At the meetings the stockmen and the Forest Rangers outline plans for handling the stock during the next season, arrange dates when the Ranger shall count the stock into the Forest, decide where the stock shall be distributed, plan the construction of range improvements and many other matters affecting the livestock business. And so it is a lively time.

As we tune in today on Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick we find them just getting ready to leave the Pine Cone Ranger Station to attend one of these association meetings.

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(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: Jerry, I'm going to take you down to Big Bend with me today. It's the annual meeting of the Big Bend Cattle and Horse Growers' Association.

JERRY: What will we do there, Mr. Robbins? Just sit around and listen to them talk about their cattle and the low price of livestock?

JIM: (Laughs) No, I reckon they'll have those topics pretty well discussed before the meeting begins. You and I will be pretty much in the center of things.

JERRY: We will. Where do I get in on it?

JIM: I want you to take the grazing applications. It'll give you a chance to get acquainted with the permittees and the location of each man's grazing allotment. -- Some of the men will need help in filling out their applications so you'd better take along the copies of last year's applications for reference. There they are on the table over there. I laid them out for you.

JERRY: All right. Do I need anything else?

JIM: Yes. A pad of application forms and a sharp indelible pencil - and I think you'd better have your National Forest Manual along. You may be asked some questions you can't answer. -- You know the manual is the rule and guide to a Forest officer's salvation, Jerry.

JERRY: O. K., Mr. Robbins. -- I guess I've got everything. Are we going in the car?

JIM: I'm afraid Deer Creek road isn't opened up yet. We'd better go horseback and be sure of getting there.

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The second part of the year was spent in the study of the history of the country.	1881
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The twenty-eighth part of the year was spent in the study of the history of the country.	1907

JERRY: (Dubiously) I don't know whether I can ride that Bundy horse or not. I haven't tried to yet.

JIM: You'd better stick to Zipper for the present, Jerry. -- Anyway we haven't time to break any horses this morning. -- All set? Let's go.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(HUM OF MEN'S VOICES-CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

TOMSON: Well! Well! Hello Jim, how are you?

JIM: Hello, Frank. It looks like you're going to have a good turn out for your meeting, in spite of the weather. Say, shake hands with Jerry Quick, my assistant. I want you to know Frank Thomson, Jerry. He's President of the big Bend Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, and incidentally he grazes two hundred and fifty white-face cattle on our district.

JERRY: I'm glad to meet you, Mr. Tomson.

TOMSON: Same to you, Quick. Are you helping Robbins permanent like or jes' through the rush season?

JERRY: Oh, I guess I'm going to be a more or less permanent fixture.

TOMSON: Good (briskly) Well, whatcha say, Jim? You all set? If you are we'll jes' set the works goin' so we can get this business over.

JIM: All set, Frank.

TOMSON: (Loudly) Hey, you fellers. Find some chairs or squat down on yore heels outa the way so we can get this here meetin' goin'.

(NOISE OF CONVERSATION SUBSIDES WITH RATTLE OF CHAIRS)

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TOMSON: This here is the regular spring meetin' of the Association. Where's Bud Smith? He's s'posed to be secatary of the outfit.

(VOICE FROM REAR -- "HE AIN'T HERE YET")

TOMSON: That's fine. We don't have to fool none with this report. So we can git right down to business, -- 'ceptin yore dues is due. It's a dollar. If yuh want to leave the money with me, I'll se that Bud gits it.-- Well, we got two forest rangers here today. Jim Robbins brought hissself a bodyguard, so any of yuh that's got anything on your chest can unload right now.

(GENERAL LAUGH)

I'll turn this here meetin' over to him now so yuh can start right in.

(HANDCLAPPING)

JIM: (chuckles) Well, I'm sure glad you've made such a good turn out today. I find that when we all get together and talk it out at these meetings things run smoother up on the range all summer. It's because everybody knows what's expected of him. -- Right here I want to introduce my assistant, Mr. Jerry Quick. -- Make your bow, Jerry.

TOMSON: Are they gittin' ready to transfer you away from the Pine Cone, Jim? If they are, the Big Bend Cattle and Horse Growers' Association wants to go on record agin it.

SEVERAL VOICES - Yes, you bet. You bet we do. etc.,

and the following table shows the results of the
analysis of the various samples of the
material.

TABLE I. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

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TABLE II. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

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TABLE III. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

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TABLE IV. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

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ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

TABLE V. ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL.

JIM: Oh, no, nothing like that. Jerry's just helping me out.--
Now the most important thing I have to tell you is that
the Secretary of Agriculture has approved a cut in the
grazing fees for this year to just half the regular
fee. I'm sure that ---

(SCATTERED HAND CLAPS AND GENERAL MURMUR OF APPROVAL)

JIM: I'm sure that's good news to you all.

TOMSON: That's sure good news all right. But you said "for this
year." How about next year?

JIM: The reduction is approved for just one year. It amounts
to a special relief measure for the grazing permittees
in the National Forests.

SAM: (IN AUDIENCE) Say, Ranger, how d'yuh figure it's a
relief. I still gotta pay grazin' fees, don't I?

JIM: Let's see, Sam Riggs - you run ten head, don't you?
That makes your total fee six dollars for the summer.
Well, cutting that in half saves you three dollars.

SAM: That don't relieve me none.

(TWO OR THREE LAUGH HAW HAW)

(VOICE - "IT'LL BUY YUH MORE SUMMER'S CHEWIN', SAM")

SAM: Naw, t'want nuther, I kin eat that much tobacco in a
month. And besides I aint gittin' a fair deal on the
saltin' up there. Somebody else is --

JIM: Just a minute, Sam. Let's stick to one thing at a time. Now maybe three dollars isn't much of a saving to you, but on the whole it means that Uncle Sam is dropping over a million dollars out of his income. That's not a bad contribution to the relief of the grazing permittees in the National Forests, especially at a time when they're trying to figure out some way to raise money to balance the budget. How about Bill Sayer, lives neighbor to you? He'd like to get his cattle up in the Forest but he hasn't got a preference. So he has to rent his range outside. He don't get any relief.

SAM: Well, I want to get this here saltin' business settled. Last year I sent up my share of the salt and my cattle didn't get enough. Somebody's else stock got it.

JIM: Wait a minute, Sam. Let me ask whether there are any further questions about the grazing fees. Has any one else something he would like to say. (Pause)

TOMSON: That last remark of yours, Jim, 'bout Bill Sayer makes me hanker to ask yuh a question. Y'know Bill can get range outside the Forest a lot cheaper'n he used to could. I don't figger he needs no relief like us fellers that's payin' sixty cents a head. I figger it won't do no hurt if the Gov'ment dropped off the fees entirely.

JIM: Well, here's a few thoughts you want to keep in mind. Remember there are about three people want grazing permits to every one there's room for. Bill Sayer has been trying for years to get in, and he's still trying, but he's a Class C applicant and there's no room for him. Bill don't find its cheaper to buy range outside. Now then, suppose the entire fee was dropped. Well, the county would lose its twenty five per cent of the receipts. The Government would be giving away free grazing, and that would throw the grazing use wide open. Every citizen would be entitled to his share and your grazing preference wouldn't be worth anything. Would you want that to happen?

(GENERAL CHORUS OF "NO, NO," "NOT ON YOUR LIFE" ETC. FOLLOWED BY HUM OF CONVERSATION)

TOMSON: No, you're right, Jim, we don't want nothing like that. (then louder) Say, some o' you cow-hands back there is doin' more talking 'n we be. Yuh c'n either bed down or come up'n get the floor away from me.

(CONVERSATION SUBSIDES)

SAM: What about this saltin'?

STRAUSE: (In audience) Mr. Chairman (pause) Mr. Chairman.

TOMSON: Well stranger, what kin I do fer you?

STRAUSE: My name is Strause. J. P. Strause. I have just taken over the Townsend ranches from the bank and I'm going to stock them with cattle and sheep. I have made arrangements with the Forest Supervisor, - Mr. Ellsworth I believe his name is, - to graze my livestock in the National Forest next summer. I heard about this meeting of the permittees and I thought I would drop in and pay my respects. I want to do my share or even more than my share in the way of hiring riders or buying salt or any other expenses there may be and I want to join your Association.

TOMSON: Well stranger -- you say yore name is Strause?

STRAUSE: Yes, Mr. Tomson, J. P. Strause.

TOMSON: How many head are you figgerin' on puttin' in?

STRAUSE: Five hundred cattle and two thousand sheep.

(BUZZ OF CONVERSATION OVER THE ROOM)

TOMSON: 'Pears like to me if the Supervisor's given you a permit already, there's something aint regular about it. We've got an Advisory Board in this here Association that's s'posed to be notified when any new man wants in, an' we ain't heared nothin' about this before. There ain't room for any more cattle an' we don't want no sheep in here nohow. How about it, JIM?

STRAUSE: (heatedly) Now I want you gentlemen to understand me correctly. I've taken over the Townsend ranches right close to the National Forest and I am given to understand that these places carry a grazing right, in the Forest.

(RENEWED MURMUR OF PROTEST IN THE ROOM - "No they don't" "They never had none" "No. Not on your life," etc.)

JIM: Mr. Strause have you filled out your grazing application yet?

STRAUSE: Yes, Mr. Robbins. I had that matter up with the Supervisor and he very kindly furnished me with these forms which I have filled out. At his suggestion I came here today and wish to formally present them to you, one for the cattle and one for the sheep. I might say also that we have certain influential connections and we should be very glad to take the matter up there if it is necessary.

JIM: If you will just hand them to Mr. Quick over there. He is receiving the applications and you will be advised by the Supervisor's office in a few days of the action taken on your application.

STRAUSE: But I must have a definite understanding at once in order that I may make arrangements for the purchase of the stock.

JIM: We give the same attention to every application submitted, Mr. Strause. The Supervisor will notify you promptly when his decision is reached.

1848

1. The first of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1848, to the first of January, 1849.

2. The second of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1849, to the first of January, 1850.

3. The third of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1850, to the first of January, 1851.

4. The fourth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1851, to the first of January, 1852.

5. The fifth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1852, to the first of January, 1853.

6. The sixth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1853, to the first of January, 1854.

7. The seventh of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1854, to the first of January, 1855.

8. The eighth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1855, to the first of January, 1856.

9. The ninth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1856, to the first of January, 1857.

10. The tenth of the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education since the first of January, 1857, to the first of January, 1858.

STRAUSE: Very well, I shall expect a favorable reply within five days. And now since that completes my business here I shall bid you good-day, gentlemen.

(HUM OF VOICES)

TOMSON: (Anxiously) How 'bout this Jim? Yuh know there aint room for no more cattle, an' the sheep----

(OTHER VOICES IN BACKGROUND)

SAM: We won't stand for no sheep on our range.

TOMSON: What about the Advisory Board? It ain't been notified.

JIM: Just a moment, men. (Noise subsides) We won't get excited about this application. You know the Supervisor wouldn't approve an application like that without my recommendation and I always confer with your Advisory Board on such matters. We'll have the usual meeting of the Board after this session and I'll take up the Strause application with it then. I have some other matters to take up with the Board also. -- Now about the salting. Some of it wasn't done at the right time or in the right place, last year. The result was we didn't have as good distribution of the stock as we should have had. There was a big herd bunched up over in Rattlesnake Canyon and fed the grass in those parts right into the ground. The same thing happened in Wagon Canyon. Now, this is what I propose and I want you to let the Advisory Board known how you stand on it because I'm going to put it up to them to decide. The plan is this. Have the Board appoint one man one each grazing unit to be a salt captain. He will be responsible for seeing that each permittee on his unit takes up his share of the salt, and he will also see that all of the salt stations are supplied with salt as long as there is forage near by that should be grazed. I believe that scheme, if the captains do their job, will solve all our salting troubles and you will keep your cattle contented on their range.

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SAM: Shucks yuh gone and spoiled the speech I was goin' t' make about the saltin' last year. (Several laugh) - But they's another thing. Certain parties had some horses up there that didn't have no permit for 'em and they got around the salt stations and druv the cattle off.

JIM: Whose horses were they?

SAM: Well I'm not tellin' no names. It's up to the Forest men t'see that the thing is stopped.

JIM: I was over the range pretty regular last summer, Sam, and I didn't see any unpermitted horses.

SAM: Well 'peared like they knowed every time the Ranger was a-coming and they come up and run their ole broom tails in till he got by. Then back come the horses.

JIM: You saw those fellows rounding up the horses, Sam?

SAM: Sure, I saw them with my own eyes.

JIM: Well I'll just have you sign an affidavit about it so I can start a trespass case.

SAM: Well come to think of it, I ain't just sure them horses was on the national forest. But anyways there's been some rustlin' u_x there too.

JIM: Did you lose any cattle, Sam?

SAM: No, I got all mine but they's others has said they was short all the ways from one to ten head, and they didn't find no carcasses so they must a been stole.

JIM: (Chuckles) Well there's lots of places up in those mountains where carcasses could hide, Sam. But if anyone has any evidence of anything irregular he ought to report it promptly to the Advisory Board or to me.

Well, now, it's getting late and you still have your election of officers, so we'll close our discussion. --

TOMSON: Let's elect the new officers now. Bud Smith didn't come so I'll appoint Sam Riggs temporary secretary. Who'd yuh want for president?

SAM: Aw, let's keep the same officers an' go home an' do our chores.

VOICE: Yah, let's go.

TOMSON: Yuh heerd Sam's motion. Anybody in favor say the regular thing.

(CHORUS OF "AYES.")

TOMSON: Anybody agin it sing out.

(SILENCE)

TOMSON: Well, that's that. Shall we call it a day?

VOICES: Let's go home - let's go. Come on, let's go. (etc.)

(RATTLE OF CHAIRS)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

ANNOUNCER: As we follow Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick in their work of handling the Pine Cone National Forest district we discover that the job includes a variety of duties. The Ranger who successfully meets the requirements of his job must be honest - he must be fair, intelligent, industrious, and friendly. It requires firmness to refuse a neighbor privileges that another should share. It takes leadership to secure the cooperation of others in the wise use and protection of the public forest entrusted to his care. Whenever there is trouble or danger or catastrophe in the great mountain areas of the National Forests the Ranger is the first man called upon. Sometimes there are long trips in sub-zero weather; frequently rest and refreshment of Sundays, holidays, and many a night are sacrificed to aid Forest users. Then there are days and nights when fire rages through the tree tops, and the Ranger must call on his physical and mental reserves to the point of exhaustion. But if his work often means danger, hardship and sacrifice it also brings to him the satisfaction of a splendid work worth doing, and a position of respect and leadership in his home community.

Next Thursday at this hour, Ranger Jim and Jerry will be with us again. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" is a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The role of Ranger Jim Robbins is played by Harvey Hays. Others in today's cast were:

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March 15, 1932.

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